

# The Sun.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 1906.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	\$6.00
DAILY, Per Year	\$60.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	\$70.00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	\$7.00

Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication will send them to the address above, they must in all cases send stamps for postage.

## A Profitless Controversy.

We print to-day three letters from Roman Catholic priests called out by remarks made by Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH in THE SUN. The tone of these letters, we are sorry to say, is controversial. They reveal also a difference of attitude toward Biblical criticism of whose existence in the Roman Catholic Church people generally are ignorant, both Protestants and Catholics themselves.

In justice to that Church we are compelled to give publication to these letters, but the controversy in which they engage cannot continue indefinitely in THE SUN. No matter how long it lasted it could not reach any decisive conclusion. Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH's tone in the treatment of the subject of supernaturalism and of the authority of the Bible has not been angry or controversial; though, unquestionably, his criticism goes to the very foundation of dogmatic Christian theology. He has made it manifest that the conclusions which he has reached were not welcomed by him, but rather have been forced on him by evidence which he is compelled to accept as affording a demonstration from which he cannot honestly escape. This loss of faith in religious dogma and in the supernaturalism assumed by it he shares with a large part of the more intelligent men of this time, so far as they have given careful and serious thought to the subject and have candidly and courageously examined the positions of Christian theology. It is a view which has forced an entrance even into theological seminaries. The letter of "Philip Lane," expressive of the sentiment of certain learned men in the Roman Catholic Church, indicates that kindred liberality of thought is making headway among the priesthood of that Church. He is the exponent of a very considerable school of Roman Catholic theologians and scientific critics in both this country and Europe.

It may be that the view proclaimed by this school has not extended among the Roman Catholic laity, in this country more especially, so widely as it has affected Protestant lay opinion, but that its influence among them is considerable, and even great, cannot be denied. Meantime, it is true, there appear certain indications of a revival of the old time religious faith, or at least of a concerted effort to start it up. Roman Catholic "missions" are conducted with great zeal, and in the Protestant Churches famous professional revivalists are hard at work in various places to provoke a religious excitement like that which marked the revivals of the early part of the last century and the middle of it. Correspondents have reported to us that the consequence of these somewhat artificial methods of stimulation has been a very remarkable revival of religious faith. How long this will last after the excitement of the revival has passed away is yet to be demonstrated. At any rate, the permanence of its effect will not be assisted by angry controversies with those who question the authority of the dogmas on which it depends. Nor can this questioning be answered by an appeal to the very authority of Church or of Bible which it rejects as baseless.

That is, the controversy with which our esteemed and learned Roman Catholic friends would carry on in THE SUN could never reach any decisive result, however prolix it might be. The disputants have no common ground on which to stand. Moreover, the position of religious faith is already understood by everybody. Nor has Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH attacked that position wantonly. He has rather expressed misgivings as to the consequences to society of its general departure from belief in the retributions of a future and supernatural state. Quarrelling over religion is a glaring defiance of the spirit of Christianity.

## The New West Point.

No one will deny that the great Military Academy at West Point should be equipped in keeping with the high position it occupies as an institution of specialized learning necessary to our national dignity and even existence. Such an equipment requires men and buildings. West Point already has the men, but it needs almost a complete new housing. The present plant is antiquated and utterly inadequate. Recognizing these facts, Congress a few years ago provided for a broad scheme of improvement, wisely declaring that nothing should be done in the matter until a comprehensive and worthy plan should first be approved by the War Department. This was done after a long period of study. The plan included the retention of every useful building now in existence. It responded to the best impulses of group architecture. It presented no desire for the needless expenditure of money solely for the sake of the beautiful. It provided a broad, general scheme of harmony between architecture and nature, as embodied in the strikingly beautiful character of the landscape at the Point. Its estimated cost was \$6,500,000. After having approved the plan of development the Department authorized the beginning of work on the improvements and some of it is under way.

On the closing day of the session when Congress authorized these general improvements the appropriation for them was cut from \$6,500,000 to \$5,500,000. There was no general debate. It was desirable to save money somewhere, and Congress, through a conference committee of both houses, cut \$1,000,000 out of the West Point appropriation. Since then that appropriation has been depleted by \$245,000 by using the money for other purposes than was intended originally. It has also been found by thorough tests that the original estimates were about \$400,000 too low. The result is that West Point needs \$1,700,000 to complete the approved plans for its rehabilitation.

Doubtless the appropriation was cut with the feeling that some day it could easily be put back. That day apparently has come. If the money is not provided now the entire scheme of improvements must be rearranged and West Point be made a conspicuous example of national parsimony and marred beauty instead of becoming one of the great national show places of the world, without extravagance being combined with adornment. Congress will be called upon to take action at the present session. The great importance of the matter is unquestioned.

West Point, the crux of the Revolution and the home of the institution that has produced practically all of our great soldiers since the Revolution, has a peculiar hold on the affections of the American people. Its traditions and its lofty purpose have always been an inspiration to patriotism. Its management in recent years, under the superintendency of Brig.-Gen. A. L. Mills, has commended the place through a high development of manhood character. The institution has proved itself worthy, from the time it was founded by WASHINGTON, of the most liberal treatment by the National Legislature.

The Naval Academy at Annapolis has been provided for adequately in new buildings on a scale commensurate with its great usefulness to the country. Congress should be guilty of no cheseparing in dealing with the needs of West Point. Every one of the improvements is needed, and no prodigal expenditure, solely for the ornamental, characterizes the plans. The \$1,700,000 required for their completion should be appropriated without delay. National dignity and justice to a noble institution demand it.

## Farmers and Tobacco Experts in the House.

The act to provide revenue for the Philippine Islands has brought out a big crop of speeches. The bucolic character assumed by some of the orators and the very bad character of Filipino cigars are perhaps the most salient impressions left upon the reader's mind. The eternal debate between "free trade" and protection need not detain us; honorable mention should be made of Mr. ADAMS of Wisconsin, who proudly records that he was "born of Whig parentage." He was born a protectionist, so to speak. He may even have been one before he was born. This matter of high protection and prenatal influence might profitably be considered by great economists like General GROSVENOR and the Hon. JOHN DALLZELL. Meanwhile we turn to humbler themes.

The dress coat of the Hon. J. WARREN KEIFER of Ohio wrinkles with mite laughter as his distinguished occupant discusses the cost of seed corn to the acre and leads a farmers' meeting:

"Mr. KEIFER—I am a farmer in the West."

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—So am I."

"Mr. KEIFER—I understand. We are both farmers."

(Laughter.)

"Mr. GROSVENOR—Mr. Chairman—"

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—I am constituents and the corn raisers of Missouri would like my advice they would never buy a bushel of seed corn in Iowa while the world stands."

(Laughter.)

"Mr. KEIFER—I tried to introduce a new seed corn into Nebraska, and I came very near being excluded from ever going back there again."

(Laughter.)

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—I want to finish my statement. I would advise them never to buy a bushel of seed corn in Missouri as they can raise as good seed corn in Missouri as they can raise anywhere, and you can raise as good seed corn in Ohio as there is anywhere."

"Mr. KEIFER—But it does not cost more than about five cents per acre for seed corn. One bushel of seed corn will plant in the usual way from eight to ten acres."

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—I think you are more nearly correct about the average price than I was."

"Mr. LACY—Let me say to my friend from Ohio that the corn in Missouri all goes to cobs and they work them up in pigs."

(Laughter.)

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—They make about a half a million dollars a year out of corn cobs in the district I live in. It is one of the greatest industries there."

"Mr. LACY—And no corn on the cobs."

(Laughter.)

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—There is as much corn on the cob as there is in any county in the State of Iowa, and first class corn, too."

The sober fact is that, as may be inferred from his weak yielding to Mr. KEIFER as to the average price of corn, the Hon. CHAMP CLARK is more familiar with agricultural processes in the "Georgies" than with practical farming in Pike county, Mo.

The good old Athenian hawback now interjected himself to chaff his bucolic brethren:

"Mr. GROSVENOR—When the two gentlemen were supporting each other in the statements that they were farmers, I wanted to say that they do not either of them look the part."

(Laughter.)

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—You are correct."

"Mr. KEIFER—I like the compliment, but I think there are slick fellows in my district who look better than I do, and they are farmers."

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—In reply to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GROSVENOR), I will say that I think we look fully as much like farmers as we do like statesmen."

(Laughter.)

General GROSVENOR is the only one of these farmer-statesmen who would be apt to be accosted by a West street or Jersey City cavalier of brick bricks, and the encounter would not be satisfactory to the accoster. As to looks, however, he is the rule laid down. A farmer is not afraid to wear good clothes; a statesman is too often less splendid in his "home district" than in Washington. And now Mr. KEIFER shall tell his little anecdote, which is supposed to be directed against former Governor PORTLAND of Massachusetts, who has been wicked enough to say that he would sell shoes for 50 cents a pair less if the tariff were taken off hides, leather and shoe findings.

"He would sacrifice the 45 cents he could get for his shoes for 10 cents," he said. "He must be in the situation that I find in North Carolina, where I have taken the woods and was in the habit of taking it to do not say to sell it."

It stealing—from his old master's flock (sic) sufficient to put up his winter's meat. The old master got religion and went to him and said: 'Now, I want you to be good and to quit stealing my fat hogs, and I will help you to quit. I will give you some pigs and you can slop them and raise your own.' The negro said: 'Not stop enough.' Then the old master said: 'I will give you six fat hogs in the fall, and you can put up your own pork.' Then the negro said: 'That sounds reasonable and fair, and I guess I will accept the proposition, but I am losing a mighty sight of pork.' (Great laughter and applause.)

The Hon. H. BURD CARREL of Pennsylvania viewed with alarm the effect of the act upon the great tobacco producing county of Lancaster. Mr. HILL of Connecticut, who knows the tobacco industry from the ground to the ashes, asked Mr. CARREL if he knew of an ounce of tobacco raised within ten miles of salt water in Pennsylvania. Mr. CARREL gravely replied:

"No. We have no salt water in Pennsylvania."

Mr. ADAMS of Wisconsin thought more of Filipino cigars than has been usual:

"I was interested in the speech of the gentleman from Ohio. I was rather amused by his statement that the cigars made in the Philippine Archipelago are not fit to smoke, and that they would never come into the American market and obtain any standing here. Then, on top of that the gentleman said he never smoked a cigar himself and did not know anything about it. (Laughter.) That struck me as being about as valuable as that literature contributed to the — by old maids who have been giving instructions to mothers how to take care of their children. Now, I have smoked these cigars—five or six brands of them—and I do not think my physical appearance is caused by smoking them." (Laughter.)

Mr. COOPER of Wisconsin brought back from the Philippines all sorts of Filipino cigars and tried them on his friends. Mr. ADAMS says that "some of them are not very good, some of them are very poor, and one brand is exceedingly good." The wagging Mr. COOPER and the Hon. Gen. GAINES intervened:

"Mr. COOPER of Wisconsin—I wish here in the interest of truth to say that the one I tried on the gentleman from Wisconsin is the only one that worked well. I tried on eight or ten other gentlemen and none of them said it was a good smoke, and said: 'Have you not got something else besides this?'" (Laughter.)

"Mr. ADAMS of Wisconsin—I can say in answer to that, Mr. Chairman, that the reason for it is this, that I am a simple ordinary farmer, accustomed to smoke ordinary cigars, and the friends of my friend were mostly politicians."

"Mr. GAINES of Tennessee—Now, have you not kept on smoking those Porto Rican cigars?"

"Mr. ADAMS of Wisconsin—I have not smoked any Porto Rican cigars."

"Mr. GAINES of Tennessee—Why is not the gentleman disposed to keep on smoking the Philippine cigars?"

"Mr. ADAMS of Wisconsin—I will smoke them just as long as Mr. COOPER gives them to me." (Laughter.)

The Hon. NICHOLAS LONGWORTH has averred that nobody who has smoked one Filipino cigar will ever venture on another; but he is not a simple, ordinary farmer, and possibly he is not of Whig parentage.

Where there is so much smoke there must be some fire. The Hon. Gen. GAINES, who proudly says, "I am a tobacco man myself," tips over the Supreme Court summarily:

"I think the Constitution follows the flag, and I am not going to follow the Supreme Court to the contrary."

Who could have foreseen that after all the innocent smoke and merriment of this discussion would come this awful end?

The Yachtsmen's Conference in London.

At the invitation of the British Yacht Racing Association delegates from those countries in Europe where interest is taken in this sport will meet in London to-morrow to try to arrange for an international rule of measurement. An invitation was extended to yachtsmen of this country, but unfortunately, although America leads in the sport, no representative will attend.

The British association wrote some time ago to the New York Yacht Club requesting that delegates be sent to represent the yachtsmen of this country. The letter was addressed to the New York Yacht Club as the leading organization in this country and because there is no general association here, as in other countries, representing all the yachting interests. Early in the winter the New York Yacht Club invited other American clubs to send representatives to a conference held here for the purpose of revising the racing rules, and the letter of the British association was read at the first meeting of those representatives. It was agreed to refer it to a committee of three, and that sub-committee thought the international conference of so much importance that it selected two American yachtsmen, who were to go to London and tell of the merits of the present American rule and try to get it adopted.

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Jews in the Schools and Colleges.

The catalogue of Columbia University of this town for the current year enumerates 608 in the force of instruction and a total of 4,755 resident students of the schools and departments, besides 964 in university extension courses.

The great number of Jews among the students is especially notable. The names of nearly one-half of the students in the college proper seem to be Jewish. In law, medical, mining and engineering schools, also, they make up a large part of the total. In the Barnard College for women and the Teachers College they seem to be proportionately as many as in the college for young men.

The Jews form only about a fifth of the population of New York, and therefore their representation in this university is much larger than their relative number in the town. The same may be said regarding the other university in New York, and in the Free College they are still more numerous proportionately. In the public schools they are more relatively to their numbers in the population than any other race.

It is not surprising, therefore, that all the learned professions are now beginning to be crowded with Jews and that so many of them are teachers in the public schools. They are more eager for an education than any other part of the population, and generally are among the most assiduous of the pupils and students and the best equipped of the graduates. The increasing Jewish immigration will make still more conspicuous this remarkable ambition of the race to obtain the advantages of education to help them along in their competition to get ahead in the world. Already they number about as many as the native population of New York of native parentage.

Newfoundland's Resentment.

Newfoundland's efforts to show her disappointment at our rejection of the reciprocity treaty are not likely to disturb seriously either our institutions or our prosperity. It is unfortunate that we should have offended a neighbor so much disposed as Newfoundland is to last winter to enter into closer relations with us. In such ways as she can find she is now trying to get square with us for the refusal to approve the Hay-Bond treaty.

The latest development in the way of retaliation is a patching up of Newfoundland's strained relations with the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, situated in close proximity to her southern coast. She is to grant to the people of those islands certain concessions regarding fisheries and commercial intercourse, and in return St. Pierre undertakes to prevent American fishing vessels from making her harbors a base of operations. The Miquelon authorities undertake to prevent American fishermen from obtaining bait and supplies from their people.

Another sign of resentment appears in the trade returns for last year. Newfoundland's imports from Great Britain show a small increase, and the Canadian account shows a notable increase. Our sales have diminished.

It may not be, politically or commercially, a matter of great importance, but it is unfortunate that there should be any strain whatever on our relations with our neighbors of Newfoundland.

Detective LERSON asked the woman her name and reproached her for delaying the ship—Evelyn.

Is the ready reprimander a city employee? And, if he is, who gave him authority to reprimand the woman whose accident detained an ocean liner?

The Hartford Courant calls attention to the fact that in Mr. PORTNEY BIGLOW's now famous report of his twenty-eight day stay on the Isthmus of Panama for research, personal observation, study of conditions and investigation of alleged abuses in canal administration he begins a paragraph in this fashion:

"One day I saw."

This undoubtedly was strictly true, but was it strictly candid? The phrase is certainly not calculated to give the impression that if Mr. PORTNEY BIGLOW had not done this or that thing on that particular day he must either have departed from the Isthmus without doing it at all, or have accomplished it during that fraction of an other day which remained after subtracting twenty-four hours from twenty-eight.

But that is not all. What Mr. PORTNEY BIGLOW did on that "one day" was this:

"One day I stopped to chat with a well-dressed, intelligent and energetic negro."

The story is continued in the next paragraph of Mr. BIGLOW's article, and this dramatic sequel the Courant seems to have omitted.

"Next day I came to the same place for another chat. He was not there. A white man wanted his job and had got it."

Thus both the one day and the fraction of the other day were devoted in part either to profitable intercourse with this particular colored gentleman or to futile pursuit of him with conversational intent. Somehow the incident as narrated by Mr. PORTNEY BIGLOW without chronological measurements gives the impression of a plenitude of time.

Plan for an Earlier Thanksgiving Day.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The SUN seems ready, even in relation to the proposed change of Thanksgiving Day, to be a little more liberal than it has been in the past. It is a pity that America is not to be

represented. The American rule is a good one, but there may be better, and it would have been a good thing to have conferred with yachtsmen of other countries and possibly to have learned that there are other rules, too. By an interchange of ideas a perfect formula might have been evolved.

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It is not surprising, therefore, that all the learned professions are now beginning to be crowded with Jews and that so many of them are teachers in the public schools. They are more eager for an education than any other part of the population, and generally are among the most assiduous of the pupils and students and the best equipped of the graduates. The increasing Jewish immigration will make still more conspicuous this remarkable ambition of the race to obtain the advantages of education to help them along in their competition to get ahead in the world. Already they number about as many as the native population of New York of native parentage.

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